

Remarks

The Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejection based on the combination of Ishii with Miyakawa and the double-patenting rejection.

The Applicants have made minor amendments to Claim 13 so that the language within the claim is consistent and reflective of the spirit of the composition of the coating layer as set forth in the Specification in the paragraph spanning page 15, for example. Entry into the Official File is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the new rejection of Claims 13 – 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the hypothetical combination of Kubota with Miyakawa. The Applicants respectfully submit that all of those claims are patentable over both references, whether taken individually or collectively, for the reasons set forth in detail below.

The Applicants agree with the Examiner’s frank acknowledgment that Miyakawa is silent with respect to the coating layer comprising a copolymer of a resin with a light stabilizer component. The Applicants respectfully submit that, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to make the hypothetical combination, the resulting product would still be quite different from the subject matter of the solicited claims. Kubota is applied to Miyakawa to cure the deficiency of a coating comprising a copolymer of a resin with a light stabilizer compound. There are, however, several problems with Kubota. First, Kubota does not disclose a coating. Instead, Kubota discloses several types of structures that are not coatings intended to be applied to a substrate. Reference to the Examples in Kubota, starting in Column 27, reveals this deficiency. Reference to those Examples shows that sheets of material were formed subsequent to a physical blending procedure in Examples 1 - 10. Then, in Examples 11 - 20, the compositions were blended and compression-molded to form sheets. Examples 21 – 30 were also compression-molded sheets. The same type of structure can be

found in Examples 31 – 39 and 41 – 48. Examples 49 – 50 show that the ingredients were first mixed, extruded and then molded by injection molding. Examples 57 – 62 were compression-molded. The clear teachings from the above Examples are that Kubota fails to disclose, teach or suggest coatings. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not make the hypothetical combination of the light stabilizers of Kubota with a resin to form a coating. The Applicants respectfully submit that Kubota is non-enabling with respect to teachings or suggestions to utilize light stabilizers as a coating. For that reason alone, the rejection must fail.

There are further problems with Kubota inasmuch as Kubota teaches that the light stabilizer is provided in solid form in the sheets and moldings. This is taught in Columns 26 and 27 at lines 58 – 60 and 24 – 25, respectively. In particular, solid particles of the stabilizer are mixed with solid resin materials to form the moldings and sheets. This is sharply different from the claimed copolymer of a resin with a light stabilizer. Moreover, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to take the solid particles of stabilizer from Kubota, one skilled in the art would be led by those teachings to combine the stabilizer particles with the base substrate of Miyakawa, not a coating that does not exist. Thus, even if the hypothetical combination were to be made, the result would be stabilizer solid particles embedded in the base substrate of the Miyakawa structure. This is not what the Applicants claim.

The Official Action also states that Kubota discloses the polymeric light stabilizer comprising a copolymer of an acyclic resin and benzophenone. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that Kubota actually discloses a copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid and an acyclic resin. However, Kubota does not disclose a copolymer of benzophenone acid and an acyclic resin. Instead, Kubota merely discloses that benzophenone can be added to the polymeric light stabilizers prepared from the polymers or the copolymers of particular unsaturated carboxylic acid. As a consequence,

the benzophenone disclosed in Kubota is not a copolymer of benzophenone, but is benzophenone itself. Again, this is not what the Applicants claim. As a consequence, the Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not make the hypothetical combination at the outset and, even if such a hypothetical combination were to be made, the resulting structure would be quite different. Withdrawal of the rejection based on the hypothetical combination of Kubota with Miyakawa is respectfully requested.

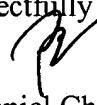
The Applicants acknowledge the new rejection of Claims 13 – 17, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the hypothetical combination of Kubota with Ishii. The Applicants respectfully submit that this combination suffers some of the same problems as the hypothetical combination of Kubota with Miyakawa. In particular, Ishii discloses light stabilizers added to the porous resin sheet. As noted above, Kubota does not disclose a coating at all and, instead, discloses sheets or moldings that include a light stabilizer with the base resin. These teachings would lead one of ordinary skill in the art, if a combination with Ishii were to be made, to take the stabilizer components of Kubota and mix them into the porous resin sheet of Ishii. Again, there is utterly no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in either of Kubota or Ishii to add the stabilizers to a coating. The only disclosure with respect to adding stabilizers in either or both disclosures is to add such stabilizers to the base substrate, not the coating. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to make the hypothetical combination of Kubota with Ishii, the resulting combination would still be different from the subject matter set forth in Claims 13 – 17, 23 and 24. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the hypothetical combination of Miyakawa and Kubota with Ishii. Inasmuch as both of those combinations have already been demonstrated to be defective and/or rendering a product different

from the claimed subject matter, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Miyakawa and Kubota with Ishii would still result in a product having stabilizer particles in the base substrate and not in the coating layer, which is what the Applicants claim. Withdrawal of that rejection is also respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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